





The single sentence in the late decision of the Supreme Court, which is to military commissions, is the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, in war as well as in peace, heretofore the people of this nation have been taught to regard the Constitution as the supreme law of the land, and the rebellion that doctrine has been defined by the party in power. They act up the dogma of "military necessity," and under that principle proceeded to strip all power from the Constitution in the several States. That principle of "military necessity" was wide enough to hold all those who were opposed to the freedom of speech, a free press, or a free trial. Upon the plea of military necessity, courts of justice were torn from the bench and injured in prison. Under the same plea writs of *habeas corpus* were disregarded, and punishment was meted out to the innocent. The rights of the citizen were closed, papers confiscated, and editors arrested by an application of the same principle. In all parts of the North, men were seized, their names were searched, and their persons incarcerated. They were denied counsel or communication with their friends. More than this, under the same plea, men were seized and taken to the courts of the land, and some were imprisoned, some banished, and others executed. This was what was done by the Radicals under the doctrine that the Constitution is not the supreme law of the land, in war as well as in peace.

From the long catalogue of crimes committed under the plea of "military necessity" in States where the Constitution is supreme, and when the courts of law were open, and the course of justice unimpeded, the lovers of civil law and constitutional supremacy can now turn to the recent decision of the Supreme Court and its effects. The great writ of *habeas corpus* is now in power in the land. It can open the doors of the prison and let light and hope into the dungeon of the captive. The Constitution is no longer a form from their families by the sound of a bell, banished to gratify a political rival, or made to mount the scaffold to insure the success of a political party. They can demand a trial by jury and that demand will be enforced. That jury must be selected in accordance with the civil law. Military slaughterhouses have had their day. Insulting, and maltreating, and torturing suspected persons will no longer be permitted. The rights guaranteed to all American citizens must be respected. Until protected by the law, all are considered innocent, says the law, and that principle, reserved during the reign of terror, is now to be enforced by the courts. The dispensation of law and constitutional liberty, as proclaimed by the Supreme Court. If a man is guilty, he can be punished. But if innocent, no man can be punished. No jury, no informer, no canting hypocrite, can drop the ballot of condemnation in the "Lion's Mouth," as under the Venetian dynasty, and thus grudge at once a private trial and the public trial. The Supreme Court has declared that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, in war as well as in peace, and from this day a new departure will be taken in the administration of law throughout the nation.

The announcement that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, in war as well as in peace, covers all that is required in order to all the consoling elements of the nation to respect its supremacy, and this will be done if the people are true to themselves at this crisis.—Age.

## THE MURDER WAR.

[From the St. Louis Republican.]

We referred yesterday to the report that Governor Fletcher's armed mob of disturbers of the peace and plunders of the property of a certain state of affairs in Lafayette county, that it had become necessary for the military commander of the Department to send United States troops there to keep the peace. The report is full of contradictions, and it appears that General Grant himself, upon receiving reliable information of the condition of affairs in that county, issued an order to General Hancock to send there two companies of troops to protect the people against Fletcher's guerrillas, preserve the peace and protect life and property. If ever there was a just and urgent occasion for such interference, it was furnished by the conduct of the military commander of that Department. Without legal authority, without necessity, against the remonstrances of reliable Union citizens, Governor Fletcher, upon the false pretext of disturbances existing there, sent a rabble of armed ruffians to assume the functions of civil officers and administer the laws. As might have been expected from the lawless conduct of these ruffians, they at once produced a reign of terror, engaged in robbery, deeds of violence, arresting peaceable citizens, seizing United States officers and compelling them to flee for their lives. Law and order were at once destroyed, and the ruffians acting under the orders of the chief executive officer of the State and the sworn conservator of the public peace, proceeded even to the length of committing murder, and were guilty of the crime of arson, destroying valuable property, going for this purpose even beyond the range of the county into which they were sent. It was high time for the commander of this Department to act and restore peace and order so criminally violated by the Governor and his horde of robbers, murderers and incendiaries. We presume that the public will be advised of the dramatic and tragedy in Lafayette is ended, and that the ruffians acting therein have been ordered to disperse and go home, peace and quiet will then resume their way in Lafayette.

## MAYOR JEFF. DAVIS RECEIVED THE NEWS OF SURRENDER.

The Fortresses correspondent of the New York Herald furnishes the following gossip in regard to Jefferson Davis:

Ever since the arrest of John H. Surratt and the statements appearing in the papers of his charging the assassination of President Lincoln as having been devised in Richmond, with the knowledge and sanction of Jeff. Davis, I have been anxiously awaiting an authoritative expression of Mr. Davis' opinion regarding the arrest and the serious allegations professed to have been made against him by the prisoner, supposed to have been a mere conversation with the original plotter and than any of the conspirators, and next to Booth, the assassin, more deeply implicated in the terrible tragedy depriving Mr. Lincoln of his life. The country of a Chief Magistrate, whose tragic deed cost such a deep gloom over the whole country. Mr. Davis, as I have been told, expresses gratification at the arrest of Surratt. He is gratified because now he sees the way clearer than ever to the establishment of his own independence in connection with the death of Mr. Lincoln. Even if the captured fugitive prefers the accusation he is charged with, he will be able to prove it a very simple and easy matter to disprove them, and his anxiety in regard to the result has this depth and compass and no more—the desire of an early opportunity to meet and refute the charges.

## The Greatest Shame in the State.

Wick-  
erham, the newly appointed State Superintendent of Common Schools, is a  
man who is said to be a  
life time equal to any man in  
the country, and delivering lectures  
on the subject of the public schools  
into our public schools.

## The Compiler.

GETTYSBURG, PA.

Monday Morning, Dec. 31, 1866.

## MAKING ITSELF FELT.

Congress is beginning to make itself felt. Its revolutionary projects shock public sentiment and shake business interests. It could not be otherwise. All that we have and are, as a people, depends upon the stability of our government and the internal peace of our people. Revolution unsettles, overturns everything. It is but natural, therefore, that the exhibition which Congress has made of reckless revolutionary purposes should disturb business and unsettle confidence. The New York Commercial Advertiser, Radical, notes the effect already produced by Congress, thus: "The errand of Congress is beginning to create a certain degree of uneasiness among capitalists. The many extreme measures proposed within the first week of the session naturally produced a feeling of uncertainty about matters likely to be affected by current legislation."

The New York Post, another Radical paper, also speaks of the effect upon business as follows: "The tone of feeling in Wall street is one of suspense and incertitude. Every one seems to regard the state of the currency with distrust. Consequently business is depressed and confidence is perturbed."

## AN AUTHORITATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT.

"We know personally every prominent member of Congress," writes Mr. Tilton in the Independent, "and we know the leaders do not mean to admit the unadmitted States of the mere adoption of the amendment. Moreover, we know personally the leading Radicals of the Republican party outside of Congress, and we know that they have no intention of making the amendment the final measure of admission. To say, therefore, as the National Committee say, that on condition of adopting the amendment, as Tennessee adopted it, the door stands invitingly open for the ten other States, is to make a promise to the ear to break it to the hope. . . . These States are to be admitted on no conditions short of the equal political rights of their loyal citizens, without distinction of race. A reconstruction of the Union on any other basis would be a national dishonor. If the rebel States can come back on this basis, they shall not come back at all."

The Radicals made the people believe at the reverse of this in the late campaign. What, then, is the inference to be drawn from Mr. Tilton's statement? Nothing more or less than that, in order to secure party success, they duped the country by the circulation of a monstrous lie!

## DULLNESS AT WASHINGTON.

All accounts from Washington corroborate the report of the extraordinary dullness of the national capital. The proceedings of Congress failed to attract even the attention of the citizens and residents of that city. Session of Congress within the last twenty years has drawn so few people around it to watch its proceedings as the present. The hotels are only half filled, and the majority of those are either there for offices, or on business with the departments, and do not take the trouble to visit the congressional halls to see what the law-makers are doing. The galleries of both houses have thus far presented a beggarly appearance of empty benches. That portion set apart for the negroes is the only part of the galleries which has been at all filled since the commencement of the session. The colored population appear to be the only class at the national capital that takes any interest whatever in the proceedings, at least such is the conviction forced upon all who have visited Washington.

Democratic principles are at this moment held by a large majority of the people of the United States. Whenever all the States are again represented in Congress (and the present disunion cannot be protracted long save to the ruin of the party responsible for it), Democracy will again resume its sway in the government. But the North itself needs to be revolutionized. The Radicalism which is triumphant must here be fought and conquered. The Northern States must be brought to the Democracy. Their influence is now driving the nation on towards a consolidated, centralized, practical despotism. Yet this is by no means the desire of a majority of the people of the North. A majority of the Northern people were Democrats by their votes in 1860; a majority were Democrats in 1862; a majority are Democrats in their principles and by their real sympathies today. They love liberty, they desire for themselves and their children freedom of every sort of trade, of the ballot, of speech, sound currency, the rights of States and of all the citizens of them—as truly as we do who are Democrats by our votes in 1860. The Northern States must be made again, as they once were, the bulwarks and buttresses of these principles of freedom.

This revolution is not impossible. It is as possible as it is necessary to our national life and progress. For once we entirely agree with the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, that "the most odious and odious of all taxes, the income tax, should be removed. At the time it was imposed, it was the general understanding that it was essentially temporary, and that a year or two would see its end. Its heavy amount, made in a single payment, its iniquitous nature, and the publicity given to private affairs, all unite to make it an especial subject of dislike. It should be the first repealed, and as many others as possible should follow after."

As there is no limit to Radical progress in the road to ruin, there is no reason why the Radical programme should be complete when the Southern States are "resolved" into Territories. The next step is to revert them to a colonial condition, which leaves Great Britain to step in and claim what was once her own, the vast and valuable stretch of country which Radicalism refuses to recognize as a part of the Union.

Petroleum has been discovered in St. Clair county, Alabama.

## RADICAL POLICY.

The following letter from a Washington correspondent of the New York World contains matter of much interest, portraying, as it does, (and no doubt truthfully,) the real designs of the Radical leaders, and announcing at the same time a very serious "drawback" in the Senate:

WASHINGTON, December 19.—The impeachment scheme has been abandoned for the present session. The Radical leaders have become convinced that the Senate cannot be brought up to the point in time to have action on the proposition at present. They have, therefore, taken another tack. The change of policy was the work of the select committee appointed at the caucus just before the meeting of Congress, to decide upon what party legislation should be pursued during the session. That committee made a partial report at the caucus with extraordinary Raymon. To use their own words, "they found the Senate too weak-kneed, or too much old fogyism in that body to make it politic for them to press the impeachment of the President. In the case they adopted another line of policy, which is, to set as many investigating committees at work as possible, in hopes of obtaining sufficient data against the President to enable them to impeach him. 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